



MATWATCH

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**THIS
WEEK'S
HEADLINES**

Graham Unlikely To Appear In Florida

TALLAHASSEE FL—Anticipated star witness Superstar Billy Graham was expected to send a videotape and written deposition for Tuesday's hearings on regulation of pro wrestling before a Florida House subcommittee.

MATWATCH has learned Graham's attorneys asked him not to appear in person after filing a writ of intent to sue Titan Sports, Dr. George T. Zahorian II and a steroid manufacturer.

Graham's rescheduled Nov. 15 appearance on Roy Firestone's UP CLOSE on ESPN is also said to again be in doubt.

The Tallahassee hearings are a first step in an effort to force the World Wrestling Federation and World Championship Wrestling to conduct regular drug and steroid testing within the state.

ESPN Renews GWF; Global To Tighten Money Belts

ATLANTA—ESPN has renewed its daily Global Wrestling Federation series for the entire year of 1992.

The Bristol CT-based cable network gave the renewal notice to syndicator Max Andrews Friday. The word comes on the heels of a week of stories circulating within the industry of financial woes in GWF.

"Well, how many people have us going under?" said Global president Joe Pedicino by telephone from his Atlanta home Sunday. Pedicino said he predicted rumors of the GWF's demise would start after some financial decisions made within the company last week.

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An Analysis

TV OR NOT TV: MAT DAYS AHEAD

One month ago, Las Vegas wrestling/talk radio host Ric Carter asked me what has become a perpetual question since we announced the retirement of MATWATCH: "What do you see as the future of wrestling on TV?"

Of course, predicting that is like forecasting the precise day of peace in the Middle East. But if one analyzes recent rating trends, several keys become apparent:

***RIC FLAIR HAS NOT BEEN AN AUTOMATIC RATINGS CATALYST FOR THE WWF: Five of the last six weeks (see RATINGS RAP, page 6), WCW shows have topped the ratings and the one off week, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING was only one-tenth of a

point from the lead. Many analysts predicted the quick demise of WCW as a TV force after Flair's departure. Again, that is a failure to look at the big picture. WCW had been posting mediocre ratings with Flair for nearly a year. In addition, while Titan Sports is much better off having Flair than competing with him, he does not necessarily translate into huge TV ratings for the predominant child and teen-oriented profile of a typical WWF TV viewer. Outside of Flair's debut on PRIME TIME WRESTLING in early September, which boosted the show to a 3.2, PTW has languished far worse than in any past seasons opposite MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL. In the last seven weeks, the Monday night WWF cable flagship has averaged a 2.2. ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING, usually a Sunday powerhouse, has dipped to 2.0 or below three times in the last five weeks.

***NO WRESTLING SERIES IS EXTRAORDINARILY COMPELLING TODAY: Strong statement, yes. But look at the numbers. In six of the last seven weeks, at least four of the five cable series have posted declines over year-ago figures. Oct. 26, only WCW on Saturday topped its 1990 rating and that was in the final week of having no head-to-head competition from late afternoon college football on ESPN. I wonder how that will hold up this weekend when Georgia-Florida is opposite, if that game is close, in WCW's strongest Southern cities. Not in droves, but little by little, the viewers are telling wrestling companies it's no longer appointment TV to have to catch your shows week-in and week-out. The WWF dips are not the only story. Even in its worst weeks, WCW MAIN EVENT rarely fell below a 2.2 opposite the NFL. That 1.8 in late October was telling.

The only cable series consistently outpointing year-ago audiences on its network is the Global program on ESPN. It's 1.2 average is 50% up from the AWA and USWA LEGENDS in 1990 but that isn't a level barometer.

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STEVE
BEVERLY

Global Situation (Continued from Page 1)

Pedicino acknowledged some of Global's financial partners have underbudgeted expenses and for the final six weeks of the year, the GWF will fly fewer wrestlers to Dallas for Friday tapings. But the Global chief says that situation is only temporary.

"We had to tell some wrestlers we weren't going to be able to fly them in as often until after January," said Pedicino. "That's where a lot of the stories started. We were honest with them, which is more than some companies have been in the past. But that wasn't enough and it ticked off some of them. They went out and told people we were through. That's simply not true."

Pedicino says Global will fly in Eddie Gilbert, The Lightning Kid (Sean Walsham), The Patriot (Del Wilkes) and Scott Anthony at least twice each and Chris Walker at least once through January. "Eddie's going to be in Japan for four weeks between now and January," said Pedicino. "The TV viewers, who are the ones we're most concerned about, will never know we've had to tighten up."

Andrews Entertainment is expected to pick up some above-the-line expenses after it receives national ad revenues in January. Coinciding is a storyline to turn Andrews, who will be "fired" as interim GWF commissioner on TV Saturday, back to a babyface (see MATWATCHING).

"Are we going to eliminate house shows? You bet. They're just not cost-efficient. But we'll allow our contract guys to pick up any independent work they can. But we are a television company and our main enterprise is to produce TV," said Pedicino. "Besides, after the ESPN renewal, we can't go out of business. This is another example of what I've said before—how rumors spread and become supposed facts before people know what they're talking about."

WCW Adopts Global Stranger

ATLANTA—World Championship Wrestling has stolen The Handsome Stranger (Mark Bagwell) for at least a dark match tryout at this week's Gainesville tapings.

Bagwell was told by WCW not to work last Friday's GWF taping in Dallas.

The move at least temporarily aborts a GWF Stranger-Scott Anthony feud but insiders do not discount Global using another wrestler in the character. The "Handsome Stranger" name is trademarked by GWF producer Bill Eadie.

STEVE BEVERLY

(Continued from Page 1)

***WRESTLING IS IN CRITICAL NEED OF A COMPELLING NEW FORMAT: If you want any evidence, consider this: in syndication, the number two action-oriented sports entertainment program is no longer the series of THE WRESTLING NETWORK (WCW). The runner-up is now a program I call "the little show that could:" AMERICAN GLADIATORS. A hybrid of the WWF's sizzle and a series of 15 years ago called ALMOST ANYTHING GOES featuring competitors with permanent flashy nicknames, AG is perceived by the audience as something different. It is, strictly speaking, a television show. No arena cards. No pay-per-views (yet). Two years ago, GLADIATORS crept quietly onto local stations while ROLLERGAMES blasted its way on with loud, obnoxious promos and a \$700,000-a-week budget which bankrupted its production company in 26 weeks. GLADIATORS averaged a 3.2 rating its first year, barely a break-even figure. Two weeks ago, AG scored a 5.1, its highest-ever rating and it does not have multiple shows to boost the ratings, a la wrestling. Somehow, this is an original action-sports-entertainment format which has clicked and wrestling companies ought to be eyeing it. Talk is the GLADIATORS producers are considering a mini-tour of large cities in the summer and may attempt a pay-cable show in 1992. If they are successful, they could be the first of this genre to pose a threat to the dominance of the WWF.

Do I think GRUDGE MATCH, the Jesse Ventura co-hosted effort will make it? After watching about six editions, no. For one thing, it's nothing more than an adult version of DOUBLE DARE, the sloppy kids game show. Second, not even the competitors themselves, who are supposed to have legitimate beefs with each other, take it seriously. Ventura seems to have fun with it but plays it strictly for laughs.

In the last week, sources have told MATWATCH both of the top two mat companies are considering adjustments in their cable formats. Vince McMahon is at least thinking of toying with the PRIME TIME format again, in the wake of the low ratings, perhaps adding more exclusive-to-PTW features to replace repeats of CHALLENGE and SUPERSTARS non-match segments. WCW, on the other hand, is expected to cut back on the number of feature segments it offers and revert to more wrestling. POWER HOUR presented eight matches last Saturday with only Van Earl Wright's town rundowns as separation. Whether any of these adjustments will result in larger audiences is arguable.

What the ratings say to me is what I've been saying for 18 months now: wrestling is no longer a special event on TV because there is simply too much of it and too much of it which looks alike. Until we see a genuinely compelling original format of presentation, I do not look for a sudden resurgence of Titanic proportions.

Gene Anderson Passes at 58

CHARLOTTE---Five-time NWA world tag team co-champion Gene Anderson died last Thursday of a reported heart attack. He was 58.

Anderson, who teamed in different eras with created brothers Lars (Larry Heinimini) and Ole (Al Rogowski), had been in ill health for several months. Friends say he had lost a considerable amount of weight in the last eight weeks.

In 1967, Gene and Lars won the NWA world tag team title from Enrique and Ramon Torres in Atlanta and held the belts for one week. Eight years later, Gene teamed with Ole for the first of four reigns as the Jim Crockett Promotions-created NWA world champions. The Andersons dominated Georgia and Carolinas-Virginia promotions in the mid-1970s.

After retirement in the early 1980s, Anderson continued to work for the Crockett company and stayed with the Ted Turner-owned World Championship Wrestling, Inc., until late last year.

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IDIOTS

Oct. 28-Nov. 3

(WWF/SYN) - [CHALLENGE]:

Davey Boy Smith d. Dwayne Gill; (SPECIAL REPORT) Jake/Sid/Undertaker angle; Tito Santana d. Pat Tanaka; Natural Disasters d. Rockers when John Tenta splashes Sean Michaels while Marty Jannetty chases Jimmy Hart. Sean waves off stretcher; Jake Roberts d. Ron Cumberledge; (BARBER SHOP) Brutus Beefcake w. Hulk Hogan; Virgil d. Barry Hardy; (SURVIVOR SERIES UPDATE) 2 more matches announced, plus more on Roddy Piper-Ric Flair teams. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[SUPERSTARS]: Sid Justice d. Col. Mustafa; (UPDATE) Flair-Piper saga; Nasty Boys d. Curt Stiles/Kirk Arnon; (FUNERAL PARLOR) Undertaker comes out of coffin & tells Paul Bearer he'll take Hogan's soul; Legion of Doom d. Pete Weeks/Brian Costello; (FEATURE) Sgt. Slaughter at Minuteman statue; (NON-TITLE) Bret Hart vs. Mountie turns into angle. Rougeau taunts Hart why match is non-title. Bret says he'd never give a shot to a jailbird. Jimmy Hart tosses bucket of water on Bret & Mountie shocks him w. electric cattleprod; Other winner: Big Bossman. DRAW.

(LPWA) - [Joe Pedicino & Jim Cornette in Atlanta studio]: Nasty Girls d. Mighty Mites; Misty Blue Simmes d. Candi Divine; Susan Sexton vs. Magnificent Mimi; Reggie Bennett d. Judy Martin; Terri Power d. Bad Girl; Lelani Kai d. Malaya Hosaka. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(GLOBAL/SYN) - [MAJOR LEAGUE]: Eddie Gilbert d. Rick Garren; Sam Houston d. Barry Horowitz; Black Bart d. The Outlaw; John Tatum/Sweet Daddy Falcone d. Ben Jordan/Terry Daniels; Soultaker d. Al Perez when Gilbert runs in & creams Al w. TV title belt; (ANGLE) Max Andrews exposed as The Boss. As GWF commissioner, Max demands Joe Pedicino hand over tape of Scott Anthony arguing w. Max over Scotty not getting spot in GWF TV title playoffs. Joe refuses & airs tape; (NEWSROOM) Pedicino on Jack Tunney & Randy Savage and on Max Andrews situation. DRAW.

(GLOBAL/ESPN) - [Mon.]: The Patriot d. B.A. Dalton; Terry Garvin d. Mike Davis but after, Tom Davis gives Chaz backbreaker; Steven Dane d. Brian Lee w. loaded elbow; Rattlesnake Raitz d. Mike Blackheart; Soultaker d. Mike Stetson; Bill Irwin d. Tug Taylor; Perez d. Falcone by DQ when Tatum/Skandor Akbar run in. Al fights them off but gets tripped until Gary Young, Bill Irwin save. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[Tue.]: {REPLAY} Round-robin finals of original GWF TV title tourney; {GWF TV TITLE PLAYOFFS} 1. Gilbert d. Tatum. 2. Soultaker draw vs. Brian Lee (both eliminated). 3. Handsome Stranger d. Mike Davis. 4. Gilbert d. Stranger by DQ to win belt when Eddie feigns being KO'd & Scott Anthony slips knucks on Stranger's hand while Eddie grins; (FINALE) Pedicino says he's seen tape of Scotty, Max Andrews conversing & knows who The Boss is. POWERSLAM.

[Wed.]: Chris Walker/Steve Simpson d. Dogs of War; Lee d. Stetson; Daniels d. Ed Robinson; (REPLAY/GWF TV TITLE) Gilbert d. Stranger to win belt; Black Bart d. Taylor; (6-MAN) Young/Irwin/Raitz no contest vs. Tatum/Price/Falcone when Price's crutch tossed in but Bart saves w. branding iron. DRAW.

(IWF) - Repeat of final show on Sunshine Network. Next week, first-run shows resume. NO RATING.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Reruns of January bouts. NO RATING.

(THE NEW PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK) - [1990/GA.]

Nick Busich/Terminator d. Steve Lawler/Thunder; (GLOBAL) Horowitz/Mil-

lion \$ Baby d. Terry Garvin/Mario Santana when Barry legdrops Santana; (GWF LT. HWT. TITLE) Lightning Kid d. Chaz; (CLASSIC/ 1950) Great Bolo workout w. Don Arnold; (LPWA) Medusa Miceli d. Nasty Linda; (INTL/JAPAN) Jumping Bomb Angels d. Judy Martin/Velvet McIntyre; (POINT/COUNTERPOINT) Scott Hudson/Steven DeTruth debate Paul E. situation & Ricky Steamboat's WWF exit. NO RATING.

(IWCCW) - Samu d. T.D. Madison; Mondo Kleen d. Star Warrior; Kevin Sullivan d. Eric Sapracia; Scott Putski d. Cash Jackson; Tony Atlas d. Dusty Wolfe; (RUMBLE SEAT) Tony Rumble w. Rick Rude. BOMB-PLUS.

(SUNCOAST PRO) - [FLA. TITLE] Jumbo Baretta d. Superstar to win belt; (ANGLE) Debbie Malenko challenges Penelope Paradise; [SPW TAG TEAM FINALS] Vern Henderson/Gator Gilmore d. Big Charlie Fields/Giant Outlaw to win title. NO RATING.

(WCW/SYN) - [WORLD WIDE]: Barry Windham d. Larry Zbyszko. Arn Anderson runs in after but Ron Simmons saves; Van Hammer d. Paul Lee; Arachnabrad d. Fred Avery; (WNN) Gordon Solie on Big Van Vader, Luger vs. Kazmaier; (ANGLE) During Tony Schlavone interview w. Rick Steiner, Luger trio comes out. Lex tells Rick to return to tag matches w. Scott. Rick grins about beating Lex in dressing room. Lex tells Rick to get in the ring; (NON-TITLE) Steiner d. Luger after clotheslining Curtis Hughes & suplexing Harley Race; Bobby Eaton d. Johnny B. Badd. POWERSLAM.

[WCW PRO]: Steve Austin d. John Peterson; Patriots d. Bob Cook/Chris Sullivan; (DANGER ZONE) Paul E. Dangerously w. Galoob toys until Sting appears; Steiner d. Mike Fever; (WNN) Solie w. Vader video, attack on Z-Ref in dressing room; Hammer d. The Medic; Windham d. Anderson w. reverse cradle after Simmons tells ref Arn scored pin by holding ropes; (FINALE) Madusa Miceli interrupts Bambi interview, slams her on floor but Bambi rallies to clothesline MM. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(USWA/WMC) - [OPEN] Dog of War ordered to sit at announcers' table after threatening Jimmy Valiant; Doug Masters/Bart Sawyer d. New Kids; Jeff Gaylord d. T.D. Steel; Tom Prichard d. Eric Embry by DQ. Eric replaces skedded Tony Falk in match but Falk runs in after 1 min., Tom tied in ropes, Eric grabs chair but Jeff Jarrett/Robert Fuller/Valiant save; (ANGLE) Woman claiming to be "Flea" runs out, embraces Dog & says Valiant kept her & wouldn't give her money. Jimmy says he wouldn't touch her because he couldn't afford to feed her; (6-MAN) Embry/Dog/Billy Joe Travis d. Jarrett/Fuller/Freezer Thompson. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WCW/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Badd d. Scott Sandlin; Kazmaier d. Mike Thor; Hughes d. Dustin Rhodes by countout; P.N. News d. John Faulkner; (VIDEO) Vader montage; Miceli d. Lelani Kai; Hammer d. Lee; Other winners: Cactus Jack/Abdullah the Butcher; (WCW TV TITLE) Brian Pillman d. Austin by DQ for over-top. Austin keeps belt. RESTHOLD.

[WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP]: Arachnabrad d. Sommers; El

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS-Midscale.

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Gigante d. Bill Ford; Tom Zenk d. Tony Mella; (WCW MAGAZINE) Eric Bischoff on Pillman title win, Paul E.-Rick Rude-Miceli alliance, CLASH win, Madusa-Bambi feud; Badd d. Tommy Granger. After, Teddy Long taunts color announcer Mike Graham, who suplexes Johnny, figure-4s Teddy. Badd comes off top on Mike until Pillman saves; Hammer d. Rip Rogers; Sting d. Oz; Patriots d. Jim Boss/Gregg Sawyer; (COLUMBUS) Miceli d. Bambi, Hughes d. Eaton. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[MAIN EVENT]: P.N.N. d. Ford; (WCW MAG) Bischoff w. clips of Madusa, HALLOWEEN HAVOC; Enforcers d. Jessy French/Sandlin; (REPLAY) Cactus/Abby win on PH; (ROSS REPORT) Jim w. Josh/Zenk/Rhodes; (WCW 6-MAN TITLE) Josh/Zenk/Rhodes d. York Foundation when Josh pins Taylor w. foot on ropes. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Ricky Steamboat d. Hardy; (UPDATE) Sid Justice/Roberts/Undertaker angle; Steve Keirn d. Chris Hawin; (SKETCH) Bobby Heenan puts a pumpkin over Jameson's head; (FEATURE) Paul Bearer makes a Bloody Mary, Bloody Jane, Bloody Cindy and Bloody Tom; (GUESTS) Bushwhackers, who try to get pumpkin off Jameson's head. Jim Duggan later tries w. 2x4; Brooklyn Brawler d. Big Bully Busick by countout when Nick backflips Steve into ring; (INTERVIEW) Gene Okerlund w. Sid/Bossman/Legion of Doom; Santana d. Bob Bradley; (SURVIVOR SERIES REPORT) More on Hogan/Undertaker; (GUEST) Ric Flair; Roddy Piper d. Bob Smedley; (6-MAN) Kerry Von Erich/Greg Valentine/Jimmy Snuka d. Tanaka/Beverly Brothers. Beverlys headbutt, flapjack Tanaka after; (GUEST) Duggan; Undertaker d. Gill; (FEATURE) Sgt. Slaughter at Paul Revere's statue; L.O.D. d. Weeks/Costello; (GUEST) Freddie Blassie, who offers Halloween tips; (SEG) 18-wheeler apparently smashes pumpkin on Jameson's head by running over it; Roberts d. Cumberlandge; (FINALE) Whackers/Duggan return w. Jameson. DRAW.

LINES OF THE WEEK

Gilbert vs. John Tatum. That's an interesting match. I'm surprised Jason Hervey didn't show up." 3. Paul E., JIM ROSS SHOW: "I'd like to say hello to my attorneys and my legal advisers, who have sued everybody in sight." 4. Daniel (caller)/Paul E., JRS: (D) "Paul E., you're full of crap." (PE) "All the way back to the Civil War, Savannah, Georgia has been the home of the biggest ignoramuses in the United States and you're one of them." 5. Caller/Paul E., JRS: (C) "Is Lex Luger married? I think the man is terrific. I think he looks good." (PE) "Go on LOVE CONNECTION." 6. Johnny (caller)/Jim Ross, JRS: (J) "Paul E., you're my role model." (JR) "Johnny, hope you enjoy your stay in reform school." 7. Steven DeTruth, WVEU: "Sid Caesar wrestles better than you, Sid Justice." 8. Jerry Lawler, WMC, on Jeff Gaylord: "If they took your brain and put it on a double-edged razor, it would look like a BB rolling down a four-lane highway." 9. Lawler, WMC: "Jeff Gaylord was so stupid, when the coach asked, 'Can you pass this football?,' he said: 'Coach, if I can swallow it, I guess I can pass it.'" 10. Jim Cornette/Joe Pedicino, LPWA, on Bad Girl: (JP) "She's no Terri Power." (JC) "Who

are you, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen?"

11. DeTruth, PWTW, to Scott Hudson: "Hudson, I heard you once flew up to Canada to catch both this mat classic from Calgary AND to avoid the draft." 12. Ross, PH: "For all of you long-time members of the Abdullah the Butcher fan club, Abdullah is just fine after his shocking experience at HALLOWEEN HAVOC." 13. Tom Davis/Craig Johnson, ESPN: (TD) "You know, Johnson, of all the announcers I've ever worked with, you are the latest one." (CJ) "I don't know whether to thank you or not." 14. Hudson/DeTruth, PWTW: (SH) "From the WINGS promotion in Japan is Mr. Pogo in a handicap match going up against...." (SD) "...Paul and Linda McCartney, two of my favorite Wings!" 15. Lawler, WMC: "The Dog of War has gone to the dog track with Flea and already, seven people have bet on her." 16. Ross, WCW, on Madusa Miceli: "She is a walking weapon." 17. Randy Savage, SOW, on Legion of Doom: "They're the Green Bay Packers, the New York Giants and the Chicago Bears all rolled into one." 18. Roddy Piper, SOW: "When you carry a big stick, you don't have to walk so soft." 19. Piper, SOW, on Ric Flair: "You Gobbledy-Gooker lookalike." 20. Mike Davis, ESPN, on Rattlesnake Raitz: "He has a Roman nose. It's roamin' all over his face."

21. DeTruth, PWTW, on Steamboat: "Old Dragon Breath is back home in Charlotte with his gym, his Little Dragon and his Dragon Lady." 22. Flair, PTW, to fan on his robe: "It costs more than your house, you can bet on that, honey." 23. Hudson, ESPN, on Gilbert-Tatum: "Let's just say their differences go back many years over a common interest." 24. Bobby Heenan, PTW, on trick-or-treaters at door: "Ding-dong, ding-dong. Next, the Avon lady will be at the door and I'll have to knock her off." 25. Freddie Blassie, PTW: "If they give you any candy that's open on Halloween, don't take it! Don't be like Heenan. He'll take anything." 26. Jimmy Vallant, WMC, on Dog of War/Flea: "I think it's a situation of a dog in heat." 27. Heenan, PTW, on Sean Michaels: "The last time I saw someone holding their stomach like that, he'd just had dinner at El Matador's house." 28. Rick Rude, JRS, on snow in Minneapolis: "Wherever I'm at, it's hot!"

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Ross, JRS, on caller question about where Brickhouse Brown is: "Paul, you seem to know an awful lot about what's going on in Memphis." 2. Sting, WCW PRO, to Paul E.: "I play with dolls--and I'm PROUD of it." 3. DeTruth, WVEU, on Justice: "Poor Sidney hurt his little arm! Must have been one of those rough-n-tumble little league softball games because surely it couldn't have been wrestling." 4. Hudson/DeTruth, WVEU: (SH) "Joe Pedicino is here to host THE NEW PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK." (SD) "Joe Pedicino? He owes me money!"

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Rick Steiner, WWW: "What does humiliate mean?" 2. DeTruth, PWTW: "Is it true that The Patriot is really a well-known Middle Eastern hostage taker named Abdul Wizar?" 3. Craig Johnson, MLW, on Max Andrews as The Boss: "I've worked for him for three years. How could he DO such a thing?" 4. Jameson, PTW, to Heenan: "Hey, Bobby, why don't you take your mask off?" 5. Heenan, PTW, on Flair's robe: "Doesn't it look better than a three-inch miniskirt?" 6. Piper, SOW, on Brian Knobbs: "Have you ever seen him with a Kleenex in his hand?" 7. Caller, JRS: "Did you know Big Josh is really Matt Borne?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. ABDULLAH WO-WO (Gary Cappetta on Abby). 2. STEREO MAYHEM (Jim Ross on Cactus/Abby). 3. OLD DRAGON BREATH (DeTruth on Ricky Steamboat). 4. LITTLE MISS PLAID (Heenan on Piper). 5. MR. & MRS. HYGIENE (Savage on Nasty Boys).

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MATWATCHING

LIGER YULE: Jushin

Liger will apparently arrive Christmas week for a series against Brian Pillman. Here's where the BATTLE BOWL theme for STARRCADE is fallacious. Why can't a Liger-Pillman match be part of that show?

RUDE WEEK: Paul E. Dangerously and Rick Rude had a couple of squashes and lots of interview time Tuesday night in Gainesville GA to get over the Sting-Rude U.S. title match for the Nov. 19 CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS. That marks the road debut for the Rude-Paul E. pairing.

THE NEW ALLIANCE: Paul E. will eventually inherit the Enforcers and Bobby Eaton. But Paul won't likely manage Eaton against Curtis Thompson at the CLASH. The stable will be rolled out over a period of weeks.

FINAL PAUL NOTES: The deal bringing Paul back to WCW was not completed until 5 p.m., one hour before HALLOWEEN HAVOC and not before Paul twice packed his gear to leave. The JIM ROSS SHOW with Paul and Rude Sunday night was a scream, particularly when Ross alluded that Paul knows "an awful lot about what's going on in Memphis."

THE BEST-LAID PLANS: MATWATCH has been told WCW will go for more "theme" shows on pay-per-views which do not require world title matches. Instead, the current plan is to try to bring back arena crowds by changing more belts in the houses. Nice thought, except when you have seven titles, what's special?

THE ALTERNATIVE: If that strategy fails, look for WCW to consider, at mid-year, to expand to perhaps eight pay shows a year, half of them at \$9.95 each, and continue the four CLASH specials on TBS.

TITAN TALK: Much revealing about the 6,000 paid for Ric Flair's debut in Madison Square Garden vs. Roddy Piper. It was the weakest MSG crowd in years and is indicative they'll turn out to see him against Hogan but no one else, except maybe Randy Savage.

NETWORKING: IWF resumes first-run shows this weekend in syndication after completing the over-the-air run of shows seen earlier on Sunshine Network.

LPWA IN DIXIE: Tentatively set is a Dec. 1 LPWA show in our town of Jackson TN. Tor Berg is expected to import more international women for this go-around.

STRIKE CONTINUES: The strike of EMLL LUCHA LIBRE apparently is still on. Galavision aired its fifth consecutive week of repeats Sunday, this time from a January show.

KONNAN'S CASH: We're told one key reason Konnan has not arrived in the WWF is he's pulling down \$3,500-a-week for EMLL during the strike. Octagon's take is said to be even higher.

THE DOUBLE SWITCH: Max Andrews' reverting to a babyface will be rolled out some time in late December in a "news conference." It will outline the "story" of Max acting as a double agent to effect a "sting" operation in order to rid GWF of The Cartel.

A GOOD READ: Let me commend to you Alex Marvez's new THREE COUNT NEWSLETTER, which I think has a real shot at making a dent in this field. Alex had an interview with Eddie Gilbert last week, in which Eddie predicted a WCW-USWA taping will still take place after the first of the year. Write for a sample at: P.O. Box 1295, GAINESVILLE FL 32604-0795.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES: Sources close to Request TV indicate the projected buy-rate for HALLOWEEN HAVOC with repeat showings will likely be 0.8%, or about 130,000 homes (\$2.6 million gross)--the lowest percentage buy for any WCW pay-cable show to date.

MONDAY IN MEMPHIS: Jeff Gaylord was the latest Billy Joe Travis sacrificial lamb to go after Jerry Lawler's USWA belt. That was before a 15-man REDMAN RUMBLE ROYAL finale.

ALSO MONDAY: Eric Embry put up the Southern title vs. Tom Prichard; Dog of War vs. Jimmy Valiant; Jeff Jarrett and Robert Fuller in a rematch vs. Doug Masters/Bart Sawyer for the USWA tag titles (the previous week, Masters used knuckles on Fuller & lost on a reversal).

IN OTHER BOUTS: Travis faced Bill Dundee and in the opener, Leatherface met Tony Anthony. Not certain is if Brian Lee was again to be in the Leatherface gear.

LARRY & THE LADIES: Kimberly Murphy hosted a half-hour "For Ladies Only" segment on THE LARRY KATZ SHOW Sunday night. In other radio stints, Paul E. guested on Ric Carter's WRESTLING TALK Saturday.

GOODIE TO FLORIDA?: Reports have Joel Goodhart, Kevin Sullivan and Luna Vachon huddling over a possible monthly 5-day indie swing in Jacksonville, Miami, Pompano Beach, Daytona and Cocoa Beach.

FLORIDA RESUMES: Lots of news from the Sunshine State this week. Tappings resumed at the Sportatorium for a new ICW group, which is really the old FCW/PWF revived. No one knows when or where these will air but 175 turned out to see Jim Backlund go to a double countout vs. Pat Tanaka in a "world" light heavyweight title match.

ALSO IN FLORIDA: On the same show, the Terminators (Marc Laurinidas and partner) went to a double countout vs. the Star Riders in a "U.S. tag title" bout. Also on the card: Tex Salenger, Kenny Kendall, Hurricane Walker. Ron Slinker and Sullivan are behind it. Robert Gibson is being mentioned for a date, as are Rocky and Ricky Johnson.

BEHIND THE MIKE: Ted Webb (late of NAWA) and Oliver Humperdink co-hosted the Florida ICW show. The group does a non-televised show at the Sportatorium in Tampa Thursday night.

MALENKO'S MAULERS: Notice how most of these guys work for all of the 87 different indie groups in the Tampa area. Seriously, Vern Henderson d. Cody Wade to win the Boris Malenko UWF Southern title Sunday before 300 in Tampa.

TRAVELING MAN: Danny Davis has committed to some dates for Global in November and December. Bull Pain and Samantha worked Friday's GWF taping in Dallas.

MATWATCH

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RATINGS RAP

Runaway on Saturday

WCW SWEEPS 5TH WIN IN SIX WEEKS

Vaulting to its fifth victory in the past six weeks, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING rode the crest of its HALLOWEEN HAVOC buildup to win the Nielsen cable ratings race for the week ending Oct. 28.

WCW scored a 2.8 rating and 5.8 per cent share of audience to finish a full half-point ahead of the field.

Second place WCW MAIN EVENT, in the hour before HAVOC, made it a sweep at the top for the Atlanta gang. WCW posted a 2.3 rating, albeit with a low 4 share.

PRIME TIME WRESTLING, despite a return guest appearance by Ric Flair continued its weak performance on USA. PTW fell to a 2.2 for the third time in four weeks with a 3.3% share.

Sunday's ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING was even lower with a 2.0/5.2.

The Saturday morning POWER HOUR rebounded a bit for a 13% gain to a 1.7/7.2.

CABLE

Week Ending Oct. 28	Rating/Share	Total Homes	Year Ago
WCW Wild Champ. (TBS 10/26)	2.8/5.8	1.61 million	2.5/5.4
WCW Main Event (TBS 10/27)	2.3/4.0	1.33 million	2.9/5.1
WWF Prime Time (USA 10/28)	2.2/3.3	1.27 million	2.7/4.3
WWF All-American (USA 10/27)	2.0/5.2	1.16 million	2.5/6.7
WCW Power Hour (TBS 10/26)	1.7/7.2	975,000	2.0/3.5

IDIOTS

(From Page 4)

6. THE GARRY TRUDEAU OF PRO WRESTLING (Paul E. on Bill Kunkel).

PASSWORD OF THE

WEEK - "UNWARRANTEDLY" (Paul E. on JRS): "I'm 26 years old and everybody views me as a threat and they UNWARRANTEDLY sent me home."

BEST PICTURES - 1. WWW, Steiner pinning Luger. 2. WCW PRO, Windham/Anderson nose-to-nose. 3. SOW, Jimmy Hart splashing Bret Hart w. water bucket. 4. MLW, Gilbert smashing Perez w. title belt. 5. MLW, Expression of Max Andrews when exposed as The Boss. 6. PTW, Heenan putting pumpkin on Jameson's head. 7. SUNCOAST PRO, Baretta pinning Superstar to win Florida belt. 8. PTW, Standing ovation for Freddie Blassie.

PINOCCHIO AWARD - Eric Bischoff, WCW MAGAZINE: "Barry Windham has an injured wrist---but still insists on wrestling on television this weekend."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Flair, PTW: "...you can run but you can't hide." 2. Gorilla Monsoon, PTW: "...adding insult to injury."

OFF-BROADCAST LINE OF THE WEEK - Pedicino/Boni Blackstone, Atlanta, after filling up tank: (JP, to clerk): "I've got gas." (BB) "You've got gas? Joe, you've had gas for 10 years."

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